



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

December 22, 2005

Like many of you, I was deeply troubled by the events that unfolded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina – particularly the impacts of this disaster on the elderly and infirm in nursing homes, hospitals, and other care facilities.

Wisconsin must do all it can to help protect our most vulnerable citizens in the case of a similar emergency here. To that end, I directed Major General Al Wilkening, Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor, to thoroughly review Wisconsin's emergency preparedness plans and deliver a report on the state of our preparedness.

General Wilkening's report recommends specific action steps our state will take to avoid mistakes made by Louisiana and other Gulf states in their response to Hurricane Katrina. One of these important steps is a Health Care Facilities Stakeholders Summit that I am convening in Madison on January 18, 2005.

I am personally inviting you, or a representative from your association, to attend this summit. The summit will include detailing of Wisconsin's preparedness activities – many of which are already underway, an open discussion on the planning and response issues that still need to be addressed, and a review of a variety of scenarios that would include evacuations of our hospitals, nursing homes, and special care facilities.

A meeting agenda, directions to the conference center, and instructions for participation are attached. I hope that you decide to take part in this important meeting – we must do all that we can to ensure the continued health and safety of Wisconsin's residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle
Governor